

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 11 is amended.

No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the language added to claim 11 can be found in original claim 1.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-10 and 12-16 are allowable.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,410,611 ("Sakurai"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above and as acknowledged by the Patent Office, claim 1 is allowable. To this end, the crosslinked polymer particle recited in claim 1 has been incorporated into independent claim 11. Claim 11 is thus now also allowable.

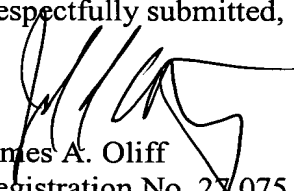
Applicants submit that the rejection is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

Leana Levin
Registration No. 51,939

JAO:JSA:LL/rav

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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